

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>TEXAS</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Bexar</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

## 1. NAME

COMMON: <b>Mission Concepcion</b>
AND/OR HISTORIC: <b>Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña</b>

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: <b>807 Mission Road, 3 miles south of the Alamo Plaza</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>San Antonio</b>			
STATE <b>Texas</b>	CODE <b>78210</b>	COUNTY: <b>Bexar</b>	CODE <b>029</b>

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

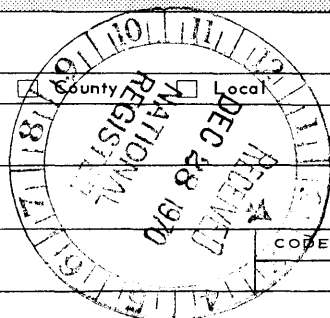
OWNER'S NAME: <b>Catholic Church: Father B. Ganack, St. John's Seminary</b>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>222 East Mitchell Street</b>		
CITY OR TOWN: <b>San Antonio</b>	STATE: <b>Texas</b>	CODE: <b>48</b>

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <b>Bexar County Courthouse</b>		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: <b>San Antonio</b>	STATE: <b>Texas</b>	CODE: <b>48</b>

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>Historic American Buildings Survey</b>			
DATE OF SURVEY: <b>1934, 1937</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <b>Library of Congress</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Washington</b>	STATE: <b>D.C.</b>	CODE:	



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A complex of mission buildings. The facade of the church, which faces west, has massive twin bell towers and a satisfying breadth. Fluted and decorated engaged columns at the entrance door support a simple and steep pediment in which reposes a projecting carved niche with a cross above. The other decorative details of the facade include a small round opening on either side of the pediment, a circular opening immediately above, and two small windows in each of the towers, one above the other. Each of the top stories of the square bell towers has arched openings on four sides, is capped with a pyramidal roof and a small lantern; and each tower has a stone merlon at each of the four corners. The massive limestone walls, heavily buttressed on the sides, are nearly four feet thick and are covered with plaster or stucco. The church has a full cruciform ground plan, with altars in the north and south transepts as well as in the sanctuary at the east end. The nave is roofed by a tunnel vault with transverse reinforcing ribs and over the crossing rises a low dome that is crowned by a lantern.

Inside, to the right is the baptistry and to the left, the belfry,--each located in a small room at the base of the towers. On some of the interior walls original frescoes can still be seen. The sacristy is situated adjacent to the right arm of the cross and next to this is a hall, from which stone stairs lead to an upstairs room known as the infirmary. An aperture in this room connects it with the sanctuary, for the purpose of enabling the sick to see and hear the services.

The buildings of the convento, with heavy stone arches and tunnel vaults extend to the south or right of the facade. The doorways open from the cloister into this original one-story structure, the first into a storeroom, the second into the living quarters of the padres, and the third into the library. Other buildings of the mission and its defensive wall have disappeared. The mission was secularized in 1793 and the church was completely abandoned by 1819. The ruined church and mission were occupied by the United States Army in 1849 and minor repairs were made to the buildings. Not until 1887, however, was the church again repaired and utilized for religious purposes. Aside from the addition of tile floors, replacement of doors, and a reroofing of the infirmary, the great church stands much as it did in the eighteenth century. The existing original construction includes the walls, towers, tunnel vaulting over the nave, and also the dome of the church as well as most of the convento. The mission is maintained in excellent condition. Still used as an active church, it is also open to visitors.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



## 2. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☒ 18th Century | ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1731, 1755

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation           |  |

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1727 the friars of the college of Queretaro decided to move their three missions that had been founded in 1716 in east Texas to San Antonio, where a fresh supply of Indians was available, with soldiers to keep them in line. On March 5, 1731 the missions of Concepcion, San Francisco de la Espada, and San Juan Capistrano were established close to the town, the closest, Concepcion being less than three miles away, and each was given a huge grant of land. The Indians that were converted nearly all died of the white man's diseases, and in addition suffered frequent attacks from hostile Apaches. 792 Indians had been baptized in 1762 and 586 had been buried. In 1783 there were 77 living at the mission, in 1792, 53; and in 1805, 41, and in 1819 there were not any. The church took about 20 years to build and was dedicated December 8, 1755. The facade was originally covered with brilliant quatre-foils and squares of red, blue, orange, and yellow. It was entirely abandoned as a church for three-quarters of a century, and as early as 1819. In the late 1840s U.S. troops were stationed there. It was later used as a cattle pen. Not until 1887 was it reopened and dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes. The mission is maintained in excellent condition. Still used as an active church, it is also open to visitors.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ramsdell, Charles. San Antonio, a historical and pictorial guide.  
(Austin, 1959)  
Texas, A Guide to the Lone Star State (American Guide Series)  
(New York, 1959)  
Hallenbeck, Cleve. Spanish Missions of the Old Southwest (N.Y., 1926)  
Morrison, Hugh. Early American Architecture (New York, 1952)  
Newcomb, Rexford. Spanish Colonial Architecture in the U.S. (N.Y., 1939)  
Bolton, H.E. Texas in the Middle Eighteenth Century (Berkeley, 1915)  
Casteneda, C.L. Our Catholic Heritage in Texas (Austin, 1939-42)

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	29 ° 23 ' 30 "	98 ° 29 ' 30 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	29 ° 23 ' 22 "	98 ° 29 ' 21 "				
SE	29 ° 23 ' 30 "	98 ° 29 ' 21 "				
SW	29 ° 23 ' 22 "	98 ° 29 ' 30 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 10.73

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Wayne Bell, Project Director	
ORGANIZATION: Roxanne Williamson, Architectural Historian (see attached )	DATE
Texas State Historical Survey Committee	
STREET AND NUMBER: 105 West 15th Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Austin	STATE: Texas CODE: 48

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name

Title State Liaison Officer

Date March 17, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

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